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ABSTRACT

On the premise that it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that computer technology enriches their children's lives rather than displaces traditional pursuits, this book provides advice to families regarding computer use at home. The book is designed to help parents set realistic expectations for the role of computers in their children's lives, help their children become good information users and consumers, select the right computer and software for their family, select appropriate Web sites, decide if content-filtering software is necessary, and get the entire family involved in educational computer activities. The chapters are: (1) "The Magic Machine: Setting Realistic Expectations"; (2) "Computers in the Midst: Taking Stock and Choosing a Role"; (3) "The Digital Edge: Making Technology Work for Your Kids"; (4) "Speed Traps and Power Plays: Avoiding Hidden Potholes on the Cyber Expressway"; (5) "The Smart PC Shopper: Buying the Right Stuff"; (6) "Bits and Bytes: Buying Software for Your Kids"; (7) "The Wild Wild Web: Choosing Web Sites for Your Kids"; (8) "From Cyberspace to Your Space: Connecting with Your Kids at the Keyboard," suggesting family activities using the computer; and (9) "The Plugged-In Parent: Creating an Operating System for Your Household." A list of content-filtering software is appended. (KB)